

## Mercury Action Plan Preliminary Priorities

Source	Ongoing	03-05 Biennium		Beyond 03-05 Biennium	
		Currently planned	Would require additional funding	Proposed for '05 - '07 Biennium, would require additional funding	Proposed for consideration beyond '05 - '07 Biennium, would require additional funding
<b>1. Mercury Release from Fossil Fuel Combustion</b>					
Coal-fired power plants	Review P2 Plans for new facilities reporting under lowered TRI thresholds for Hg. <i>HWTR</i>		Wait for federal regulations requiring mercury reduction at coal-fired utility boilers, then evaluate the need for more stringent requirements in Washington State. <i>AQ</i>		
Fuel Oil	Promote efforts to reduce energy usage.				
Oil Refineries		Refineries will be asked to review the Pollution Prevention Report prepared for Ecology and identify and implement pollution prevention opportunities applicable to their facilities. <i>SWFA</i>			
Wood Stoves				Evaluate cleaner fuel sources. <i>AQ</i>	
<b>2. Mining and Manufacturing</b>					
Mercury Mining	Prioritize abandoned mines as potential toxic cleanup sites. <i>TC</i>				
Gold Mining					
Abandoned Placer Gold Mines	Prioritize abandoned mines as potential toxic cleanup sites. <i>TC</i>				
Lode Gold Mines				Investigate whether existing/future gold mine heap leach or other extraction operations, surface impoundments, and/or tailings disposal facilities meet DW requirements. <i>HWTR</i>	Evaluate mercury emissions. <i>AQ</i>
Manufacturing	Investigate where mercury enters Washington manufacturing processes, either intentionally or unintentionally; for what purpose; and possible alternatives. <i>EAP lead, HWTR</i>				
<b>3. Use of Products Containing Mercury</b>					
Mercury Added Products- General		Develop legislative strategy that promotes and supports the principles of product stewardship, product labeling, bans on the use of mercury in products where clearly and immediately unnecessary, and phase-outs of other unnecessary uses of mercury in products. <i>EAP lead, AQ, SWFA, TC, WQ</i>			
Mercury Fever Thermometers	Support mercury thermometer exchanges through CPG grants. <i>SWFA</i>	→			

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		Work with key pharmaceutical chains in E. WA to implement a mercury fever thermometer exchange in rural counties. <i>EAP</i>			
Batteries	Support the collection of button cell batteries at household hazardous waste collection facilities through CPG grants. <i>SWFA</i>	→			
HVAC Equipment			Include HVAC switches and gauges, beyond thermostats, as waste streams covered by the Universal Waste Rule. <i>HWTR</i>		
			Provide outreach and education to building inspectors on removing mercury equipment prior to demolition of buildings. <i>SWFA</i>		
			Support expansion of Thermostat Recycling Corporation. <i>HWFA</i>		
Lamps	Make funding available for local governments to increase fluorescent collection capacity through CPG grants. <i>SWFA</i>	→	Enhance fluorescent lamp recycling through improved compliance with the Universal Waste Rule. <i>HWTR</i>		
		Work with GA to share information with all state agencies to ensure compliance with the Universal Waste Rule. <i>EAP lead, HWTR</i>			
Vehicle Switches			Review approaches available (with stakeholder input) on how best to remove mercury convenience light switches in vehicles. <i>EAP lead, AQ, HWTR, SWFA</i>		
<b>User Groups</b>					
Medical Facilities			Develop a voluntary, collaborative program in cooperation with WA State Hospital Assoc. to encourage the adoption of mercury reduction policies by the Association and the installation and following of BMP's. <i>EAP lead, HWTR, SWFA, WQ</i>		
			Add mercury equipment such as thermometers and sphygmomanometers (though not lab products or mercury-containing drugs) as waste streams covered by the Universal Waste Rule. <i>HWFA</i>		

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			As part of regular inspections, compliance inspectors can look for improper disposal of mercury equipment. Aside from looking for improper disposal of mercury products, the current inspection program would not otherwise be expanded. <i>HWTR</i>		
Dental Facilities		Develop MOU with WA State Dental Association to encourage the installation of amalgam separators and development of BMP's. At the end of a two year period, dentists would be required to comply with pertinent Ecology regulations. Tentatively planned, subject to public comment. <i>EAP lead, HWTR, SWFA, TC, WQ</i>			
Veterinarians					Conduct outreach and education to encourage the replacement of mercury products with non-mercury products and to improve spill response. <i>HWTR</i>
K - 12 Schools	Work with EPA, local governments, and Office of SPI to encourage mercury removal from schools as part of a more comprehensive clean-out program. (Currently being conducted with one-time funding.) <i>HWTR</i>				
Universities					Work with labs to reduce the use of mercury products. <i>HWTR</i>
State Purchasing	Work with GA to review contracts as they come up for renewal to include a preference or requirement for non-mercury products. <i>HWTR</i>	→			
<b>4. PRODUCTS CONTAINING MERCURY AT END-OF-LIFE</b>					
<b>Disposal of Products Containing Mercury</b>					
Solid Waste Combustion			Consider prohibiting the combustion of fluorescent lamps. <i>SWFA</i>		
Landfills	Investigate mercury emissions in landfill gas and on the open face of active landfills. <i>EAP</i>				

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Medical Waste Autoclaves and Retorts	Work with medical waste facilities and the WA State Hospital Association to educate the medical community about disposing of mercury as hazardous waste. <i>EAP, HWTR</i>	→	Work with the Dept. of Labor and Industry to clarify the interpretation of infectious waste and hazardous waste regulations for the dental community, providing direction for the handling of mixed waste. <i>EAP lead, HWTR, SWFA</i>	Include requirement that medical waste facilities not accept mercury as part of a medical waste facility permit template for use by local health departments. <i>SWFA</i>	
POTW's				Consider eliminating mixing zones in the next round of regulatory review. <i>WQ</i>	
Septic Systems				Provide outreach material to septic pumping firms for distribution to customers. <i>WQ</i>	
Sewage Sludge Incinerators	Any pollution prevention programs designed to keep mercury out of sewage will result in lower emissions from sewage sludge incinerators.				
Crematoria				Work with the crematory industry in a collaborative approach to identify the most productive way to reduce mercury emissions from crematoria. <i>AQ</i>	
<b>Recycling and Disposal as Hazardous Waste of Products Containing Mercury</b>					
Household Hazardous Products Facilities	Make funding available for local governments to increase collection of mercury products through CPG grants. <i>SWFA</i>	→			
	Work with the Quicksilver Caucus to develop proposals for long-term mercury management infrastructure. <i>EAP</i>	→			
<b>Mercury Retirement</b>					
<b>MERCURY IN THE ENVIRONMENT</b>					
Toxic Waste Cleanup Sites	Begin tracking mercury as a specific contaminant	→			
<b>MERCURY IN THE FOOD CHAIN</b>					
Fish Advisories	DOH will continue to expand its efforts with health care providers and the public. Nutrition consultants with the DOH WIC program will be instrumental in reaching young women and children. <i>DOH</i>	→			
<b>RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>					
	Washington State Toxics Monitoring Program <i>EAP</i>	→			
	Monitoring Program to Verify 303(d) Metals Listings for Selected Rivers and Creeks <i>EAP</i>	→			

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	Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program <i>EAP</i>	→			
	Statewide Mercury in Fish Tissue Project <i>EAP</i>	→			
	Lake Whatcom Mercury in Sediment Project <i>EAP</i>	Survey of Mercury Research Activities in Washington State <i>EAP</i>			
	EPA Region 10 Mining Workgroup <i>TC</i>	Impact of Fish Consumption Advisories on Consumer Awareness and Behavior <i>DOH</i>			
	Mercury Awareness Survey <i>EAP</i>				